

Observations of Comet Tempel 2, 1899 IV., at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford.

(Communicated by A. A. Rambaut, D.Sc., F.R.S., Radcliffe Observer.)

The following observations were made with the 10-inch Barclay Equatorial, using the Ring Micrometer with power 100.

Date.	G.M.T.			Local Sidereal Time.			Ob- server.	Comet minus Star. (Corrected for Refraction only).			No. of Comps.	Apparent R.A. of Comet.			Parallax in R.A. p .	Log. ($p \times \Delta$).	Apparent N.P.D. of Comet.		Parallax in N.P.D. q .	Log. ($q \times \Delta$).	Ref.	
	h	m	s	h	m	s		m	s	h		m	s	h			m	s				o
1899.																						
June 12	12	42	32	18	1	57	R.	- 2	23.25	+ 1	47.9	3	19 50	24.22	- 0.31	-9.2211	94	46 (44.6)	13.5	0.8626	(a)	
14	12	21	12	17	48	27	R.	- 4	40.81	- 0	12.4	5	19 53	13.34	- 0.36	-9.2791	95	3 31.6	13.8	0.8628	(b)	
16	12	16	56	17	52	3	R.	+ 0	6.91	- 0	31.7	12	19 56	1.66	- 0.37	-9.2761	95	22 51.3	14.2	0.8641	(c)	

Observer's Remarks.

- (a) Comet small and excessively faint. Observations on this night are only approximate; the resulting N.P.D. has, therefore, been bracketed.
- (b) The comet has a small nebulous head, with a stellar condensation of about magnitude 12. The comparison star is of the 10th magnitude.
- (c) The comet is small and faint, with a condensation of about the 12th magnitude. The magnitude of the comparison star is 11.

Adopted Places of the Comparison Stars.

Ref.	Mean R.A. 1899 ^o .	Reduction to Appar. R.A.	Mean N.P.D. 1899 ^o .	Reduction to Appar. N.P.D.	Authority.
	h m s	s	° ' "	"	
(a)	19 52 43.88	+3.59	94 45 4.35	-7.65	Three observations Radcliffe Transit Circle, 1899.
(b)	19 57 50.54	+3.61	95 3 52.38	-8.40	Five observations R.A. and three observations N.P.D. Radcliffe Transit Circle, 1899.
(c)	19 55 51.07	+3.68	95 23 31.52	-8.61	Three observations Radcliffe Transit Circle, 1899.

In the computation of the parallaxes the adopted value of the Sun's mean horizontal parallax is 8".85, and the geocentric distances, Δ, are taken from the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 3554.

Observer : Mr. W. H. Robinson.

Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford : 1902 July 9.

Old Cape Records of Comets. By R. T. A. Innes.

In arranging the old records of the Cape Observatory I came across a letter giving some records of comets seen from the Cape in the seventeenth century. With Sir David Gill's sanction I transmit a copy of it. The year of the letter is not given. It was probably written in 1858 to 1860, but the exact date is immaterial.

February 28.

My Dear Sir,—In my rapid progress through the old journals my eye has been caught by the notices of which I annex the translations. I may have passed over some others from the impossibility of attempting to do more than skim, but if there are any years in particular during which a more particular examination would [be] interesting to you, pray let me know the years, and I shall not fail to look more closely.—
I am, &c., (Signed) D. MOOLIN.

T. Maclear, Esq.

1664 December 15.—“About midnight, with a sky partially clouded, we all here saw a star with a darkish ray or tail, which it is said showed itself much more clearly and distinctly about 3 o'clock when it was near day; the star rose in the East and the tail pointed directly North.”

1686, Monday, August 12.—“This night appeared in the 5th house of the heavens, at one o'clock, in the horizon, a comet, corresponding in longitude (?) with *Saturn* and *Venus*, on the left shoulder of the *Hare*. S. Lat. $18^{\circ} 4'$, Long. $80^{\circ} 8'$. The tail extended right East and West to the length of 35 Celestial Degrees, in *Gemini*.”

1689 November 24.—“A star with a tail was seen in the [MS. defaced].”

1689 November 25.—“This morning about 4 o'clock the said tailed star was again seen, which soon after disappeared as the Sun rose.”

1689 December 9.—“This morning at 3 o'clock the tailed star showed itself very distinctly, the tail was more than 4 degrees long.”

1689 December 24.—“The tailed star no longer seen.”